

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1.-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The cellular rubber material claimed in ~~claim 1~~Claim 16, in which the heating is ~~conducted~~performed by means of microwave irradiation.

14. (Canceled)

15. (Canceled)

16. (New) A cellular rubber material prepared by heating a rubber composition comprising

(A) 100 parts by mass of a polymer which contains 30 to 100% by mass of a chlorinated polyethylene having a chlorine content of 10 to 35% by mass and Mooney viscosity at 100° ML₍₁₊₄₎ of 30 to 100,

(B) 1 to 30 parts by mass of an organic blowing agent having a decomposition temperature T₁ of 100 to 170°C, and

(C) 0.1 to 10 parts by mass of an organic peroxide having a one minute-half life temperature T₂ of 100 to 170°C, wherein $-20^{\circ}\text{C} \leq (T_1 - T_2) \leq +30^{\circ}\text{C}$.

17. (New) A cellular rubber material prepared by extrusion-molding into a predetermined shape, heating, cross-linking and foaming a rubber composition comprising

(A) 100 parts by mass of a polymer which contains 30 to 100% by mass of a chlorinated polyethylene having a

chlorine content of 10 to 35% by mass and Mooney viscosity at 100° ML₍₁₊₄₎ of 30 to 100,

(B) 1 to 30 parts by mass of an organic blowing agent having a decomposition temperature T_1 of 100 to 170°C, and

(C) 0.1 to 10 parts by mass of an organic peroxide having a one minute-half life temperature T_2 of 100 to 170°C, wherein $-20^{\circ}\text{C} \leq (T_1 - T_2) \leq +30^{\circ}\text{C}$.

18. (New) In a method of preparing a cellular rubber material comprising the steps of extrusion-molding a rubber composition into a predetermined shape, heating, cross-linking and foaming the rubber composition, the improvement comprising said rubber composition comprising (A) 100 parts by mass of a polymer which contains 30 to 100% by mass of a polar group-substituted polymer, (B) 1 to 30 parts by mass of an organic blowing agent, and (C) 0.1 to 10 parts by mass of an organic peroxide.

19. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein the heating is performed by means of microwave irradiation.

20. (New) The cellular rubber material of Claim 16, wherein the cellular rubber material is a cosmetic sponge puff.

21. (New) The cellular rubber material of Claim 17, wherein the cellular rubber material is a cosmetic sponge puff.

22. (New) The method of Claim 18, wherein the cellular rubber material is a cosmetic sponge puff.